

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Yuusuke SUZUKI
Title: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS
Appl. No.: Unassigned
Filing Date: 03/22/2004
Examiner: Unassigned
Art Unit: Unassigned

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document, except as noted below, is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The USPTO has waived the requirement under 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(i) to submit copies of U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications when citing and submitting an Information Disclosure Statements in a patent application filed after June 30, 2003 and in an international application that has entered the national stage under 37 USC §371 after June 30, 2003. Accordingly, copies of these types of documents are not being supplied in connection with this application. Reference is being made to Pre-OG Notice from Office of Patent Legal Administration dated July 25, 2003, *Information Disclosure Statements May Be Filed Without Copies of U.S. Patents and Published Applications in Patent Applications filed after June 30, 2003.*

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), within three (3) months of the filing date of the application.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

All of the documents are in English.

Document A1 discloses detecting means configured to detect if overprinting has been designated on the application based on the image data, and warning means configured to warn of the designation of overprinting based on the detection result of the detecting means. The device further includes extraction means configured to extract an image for which the overprinting has been designated and setting means configured to set image conversion to clarify the image when the image extracted by the extracting means is processed and output. The device is characterized in that the setting means sets the image conversion such as to add an outline of predetermined color along the profile of the image extracted by the extracting means.

Document A2 discloses technology where a received drawing command is a gradation drawing command, the degree of change of color within the gradation drawing area is obtained, and a thinning-out level within the drawing area is determined based on the obtained degree of change of color. An enlargement value is determined based on the

thinning-out level decided upon, and instructions are given to an image processing unit to draw the gradation drawing area in a manner enlarged with the enlarging value decided upon. Next, the color values of the pixel values within the gradation drawing area are calculated at pixel intervals determined by the thinning-out level, and this is used as gradation data.

Document A3 discloses that halftone screens are generated for each separation in accordance with the goal of avoiding overlapping. The black separation is halftoned, generating a dot pattern with a number of ON pixels and OFF pixels in accordance with the area density of the black separation. Next, a first color separation is halftoned, setting a number of the previous OFF pixels to ON. Then, if any white pixels remain, the second color separation is halftoned, setting a number of the previously OFF pixels to ON. If during the processing of the second and third separations, it is determined that no OFF pixels exist to be turned ON, a second layer of color is started, respectively superimposed over the first layer. The third color separation is halftoned in reverse fill-in order, setting a number of the previously OFF pixels to ON. Each layer is started and arranged so that the additional colors forming the dot pattern are not placed on any black areas.

Applicant respectfully requests that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.


The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date March 22, 2004

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By


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Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Date Submitted: March 22, 2004 <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	Unassigned
				Filing Date	03/22/2004
				First Named Inventor	Yuusuke SUZUKI
				Group Art Unit	Unassigned
				Examiner Name	Unassigned
				Attorney Docket Number	016907-1639

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
	A1	2002/0196464	A1	KODAMA ET AL.	12-26-2002	
	A2	2002/0093671	A1	OHNO	07-18-2002	
	A3	5,631,748		HARRINGTON	05-20-1997	
	A4	2003/0095282	A1	SUZUKI ET AL.	05-22-2003	

U.S. PATENT APPLICATION DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Application Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Filing Date of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Serial Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
	A5	10/310,955		SUZUKI	12-06-2002	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁶

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.